

Passenger Records

17th and 18th Centuries

Few ships arriving during this time had actual passenger lists. Diaries, family traditions, historical documents, and depositions for court cases provide information on immigrant's arrival. Based on these sources many published lists state when and where an immigrant arrived. Filby's *Passenger and Immigrant Lists Index* provides access to many of these published lists. *The Original Lists of Persons of quality...and Others Who Went From Great Britain to the American Plantations, 1600-1700* edited by John Camden Hotten gives names, ages, localities where they formerly lived and the names of the ships in which they embarked. The *Omitted Chapters From Hotten's* edited by James C. Brandow gives census returns, parish records and militia rolls from the Barbados Census of 1679/80. When searching the Genealogy Collection in the online catalog, use "immigrant," "immigrants," or "emigrants" as key words to find the lists that the library owns.

US Federal Passenger Lists

The first lists were made to track baggage, not passengers, but the names of the individuals carrying the baggage also appeared on the list.

1800-1819 Baggage Lists mostly for Philadelphia

1820-1905 Customs Passenger Lists

1883 Port of Philadelphia starts recording lists.

1891 Most other ports start recording lists.

1893 First standard federal form that included information such as Name, Sex, Marital Status, Calling or Occupation, Ability to Read or Write, Nationality, Last Residence, Port of US Entry, Final Destination, Whether Immigrant Paid Own Passage, Whether Going to Join a Relative and if so What Relative as well as Their Name and Address.

1903 Category of Race added

1906 Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization established
Manifests were now to carry a personal description of each immigrant and their birthplace, not just the country of allegiance.

1907 Name and address of the nearest relative in the country from which the immigrant came.

Published lists, such as *Germans to America* or *Italians to America*, are in the Genealogy Collection. The U.S. Immigration Collection on Ancestry library edition provides online access to passenger lists.

US and Canadian Border Crossings

In 1865, the port of Quebec was the first Canadian port to archive passenger lists. Halifax started in 1881. By 1865, because of excellent rail connections and/or inward passage on Lake and River Steamers from Quebec, thousands of immigrants destined to the US Mid-West and elsewhere in North America arrived via Canada. In 1895 records of border crossing started to be kept because statistics showed that forty percent of passengers arriving in Canada were actually headed to the United States. Many of these had been refused entry in the US ports because of quota laws. The 1895 lists are called St. Albans (Canadian) Border Crossing Lists. Canada and USA established a joint inspection system for passengers arriving in Canada who intended to go on to the United States. U. S. National Archives or National Archives of Canada have the lists. The *Canadian Immigrant Records* database on Ancestry Library edition indexes over 200,000 names who immigrated to Canada from 1780 to 1906. Many people freely moved back and forth across the Canadian and USA border. Prior to 1865 passengers from the British Isles were not

leaving the country when they went to Canada because they just went to another providence. These border crossing lists are on Ancestry Library edition in the US Immigration Collection.

US and Mexican Border Crossings

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Family History Library have the microfilm immigration records for persons crossing the US – Mexican land border ca. 1903 – ca. 1955. To find these records at NARA (<http://www.archives.gov/research/>) and Family History Library (http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp) search under “border manifests” Ancestry Library Edition has the database, *Border Crossings: From Mexico to U.S., 1903-1957*, in the US Immigration Collection. These records originated in the border crossing customhouses from Texas to California. The Archives Division has the microfilm for *Manifests of Alien Arrivals at Douglas, Arizona, September 10, 1906 – October 10, 1955*.

Internet Research Guides

1. *Finding Passenger Lists Before 1820, Arrivals at US Ports from Europe* compiled by Joe Beine <http://www.germanroots.com/1820.html>
2. *Finding Passenger Lists & Immigration Records 1820-1940s, Arrivals at US Ports from Europe* by Joe Beine <http://www.germanroots.com/passengers.html>
3. *Immigration and Ships Passenger Lists Research Guide, Research in Years 1820 to Circa 1891* <http://home.att.net/%7Earnielang/ship04.html>

Internet Sites

1. *CastleGarden.org* offers free access to a database of 10 million immigrants from 1830 through 1892 when Ellis Island opened. <http://castlegarden.org/>
2. *Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet* gives a 29 page listing of Ships and Passenger Lists. <http://www.cyndislist.com>
3. *Ellis Island*, located at the southern tip of Manhattan in New York, processed almost 12 million immigrants from 1892 through 1954. <http://www.ellislandrecords.org>
4. *Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild* lists five thousand ships by date, name, port of departure, port of arrival and captain's names. <http://www.immigrantships.net>
5. *Olive Tree Genealogy* provides ships passenger lists by nationality to USA or by port of arrival. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ote/indexshp.htm>
6. *One-Step Webpages* by Stephen P. Morse provides forms, ship arrivals, and ports of immigration. <http://www.stevemorse.org>
7. *Passenger Lists on the Internet* provides links to ships lists with a short description of each. <http://members.aol.com/rprost/passenger.html>
8. *What Passenger Lists are Online?* provide Internet Sources for Transcribed Passenger Records and Indexes. <http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/onlinelists.html>
9. *Palmer List of Merchant Vessels* consists of descriptions of merchant vessels both sail and steam. <http://www.geocities.com/mppraetorius/intro-com.htm>
10. *The Ships Lists* provides ships passenger lists to USA, Canada and Australia from 1700 to present. <http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/passengerlists/index.htm>

Family History Library Catalog

The keyword “passenger” retrieves 855 records for passenger lists for the USA and other places in the world. A subject search for “immigration” gives 56 matching subject headings to search. A subject search for “emigration” gives 51 marching subject headings.
http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp